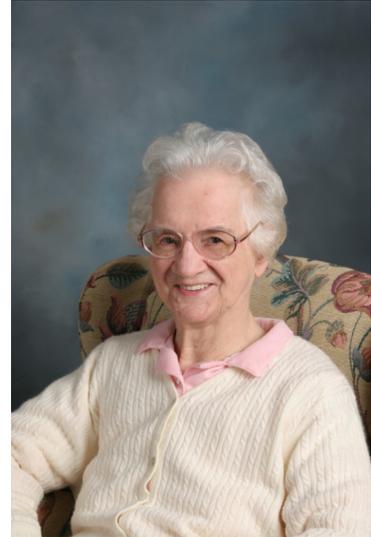


## **Sister Dorothy Roesch, CSA**

Sister Dorothy (formerly Mary Bede) Roesch, 90, died on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, in Serenity Circle at St. Francis Home where she resided.

Dorothy was born March 6, 1918, in Altoona, Pennsylvania, to Edward Roesch and Mary Barnes. She had one brother, Edward. Her happiest days were in the classroom where she loved to be Sister's helper. When Sister John Baptist asked her in 8<sup>th</sup> grade what she wanted to be, her unhesitating response was "I want to be a Sister." And so it was that the Sisters of St. Agnes teaching in Altoona in 1933 helped Dorothy to prepare for her new life.



In Fond du Lac, Dorothy attended St. Agnes Convent High School and Marian College, from which she received a BS in education. She received the name Sister Mary Bede when she professed her first vows on August 15, 1937. (Fifty years later she returned to her baptismal name.) For the next twenty-eight years she taught primary and intermediate grades in Kansas, Wisconsin, Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania.

Sister left classroom teaching when illness became her constant companion. Yet she continued to be active in the Right to Life movement for a number of years at St. Agnes Convent on Gillett Street. Later at Nazareth Heights she helped by her presence with the more frail sisters and with other services as requested from time to time. In Serenity Circle she participated with joy in the activities.

Sister Dorothy delighted in simple pleasures. She loved a party and "dressing up" in various costumes from time to time. Pastel colors of pink, blue, yellow and green cheered her spirits. She was often seen with a bright smile and could be heard humming a pleasant tune. She expressed gratitude with a quiet "thank you" for every favor done for her.

In these last months pain was an added burden. Throughout her life, Sister's spirituality centered on Scripture, especially the four Evangelists, and the rosary, a prayer she loved. At the Heights she had often shared her insights on Scripture. In giving her life to Jesus as a woman religious, it was her desire to imitate him. In Hebrews 5:8, we read: "Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered." That lesson of suffering was one that Sister Dorothy knew well. God mercifully released her through a peaceful death to bring her home where pain is no more.

Sister Dorothy is survived by a number of cousins and the Sisters of St. Agnes with whom she lived, prayed, and ministered.

Preceding her in death are her parents, Edward Roesch and Mary Barnes and brother Edward Roesch, Jr.

**Visitation:** Visitation for Sister Dorothy will be held on Thursday, from 9:30 a.m. until 1:45 p.m. at Nazareth Court and Center, 375 Gillett Street, Fond du Lac. A prayer service will be held at 11:00 a.m.

**Services:** A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in the St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett Street, Fond du Lac. Father Edward Sippel will preside. Burial will be at St. Joseph Springs Cemetery when weather permits.

The Sisters of St. Agnes are grateful to the nurses and staff of Nazareth Court and Center, Hospice Hope, and St. Francis Home for their care of Sister Dorothy.